



Congressman Dave Reichert  
Washington's 8th Congressional District

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## **REICHERT PRAISES *REAL ID* ACT PASSAGE**

**WASHINGTON, DC**—U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert today issued the following statement on House passage of the *Real ID Act*. This measure would implement much-needed driver's license reforms, close asylum loopholes, enhance border security, and strengthen deportation laws.

"We lost thousands of loved ones on September 11 to a terrorist attack. It is important we do everything we can now to prevent that from ever happening again. We must be vigilant in all that we do, including seemingly simple acts such as obtaining a driver's license.

A driver's license is a bridge to many things. For a terrorist, it is a walkway to weapons, planes and other forms of identification. That is unacceptable. As a former law enforcement officer of 33 years, I realize in a very personal sense just how dangerous weapons are in the wrong hands.

Therefore we have taken another step to close these loopholes, a step recommended in the 9-11 Commission Report<sup>1</sup>. The House acted strongly to see no terrorist will be handed an official license again, in turn protecting American families—the most important priority this Congress has."

*The Real ID Act* will boost U.S. border security by:

- Requiring ID applicants to provide proof they are in the country legally;
- Requiring identity documents to expire at the same time as the expiration of lawful entry status, preventing those who have illegally entered or are unlawfully present in the U.S. from having valid identification documents;
- Strengthening judges' ability to determine whether the asylum seeker is truthful. This provision codifies the factors immigration judges use to assess credibility;
- Requiring the completion of the San Diego 14 mile border fence on the US-Mexican border; and
- Providing that any alien contributing funds to a terrorist organization would be deportable.

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<sup>1</sup> The 9-11 Commission Report, Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, p. 384.